2. Use of improved high yielding variety seeds.

3. Harnessing ground water through tubewells, completing on-farm development works in command areas and completing the near completion irrigation projects and efficient use of the stored water.

4. Better Management of weeds and timely control of pests and diseases.

5. Bonus|incentive for production|procurement of foodgrains.

6. Increased flow of short term and long term credit.

The programme would be taken up in 169 districts in 14 States. The States proposed to be covered are:—

1. Andhra Pradesh
2. Assam
3. Bihar
4. Gujarat
5. Haryana
6. Karnataka
7. Madhya Pradesh
8. Maharashtra
9. Orissa
10. Punjab
11. Rajasthan
12. Tamil Nadu
13. Uttar Pradesh
14. West Bengal.

In all 106 districts would be taken up with rice, 72 for wheat, 28 each for maize and gram and 20 for arhar.

High Power body to boost Agricultural production

2528. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) is it a fact that the Centre have set up a high power Body to work out an action plan to boost agricultural production in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the amount provided for achieving the target by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The programme would be taken up in 169 districts in 14 States. In all 106 districts will be covered under rice, 72 under wheat, 28 each for maize and gram and 20 for Arhar. Six pronged strategy has been suggested for increasing foodgrain production. The components are:

1. Increased fertiliser use by 20 kgs of nutrients per ha. (kg./ha)

2. Use of improved high yielding variety seeds.

3. Harnessing ground water throu tubewells, completing on-farm deve ment works in command areas and c pleting the near completion irrigation jects and efficient use of the stored w

4. Better management of weeds

5. Bonus|incentive for production|pro curement of foodgrains.

6. Increased flow of short term and long term credit.

(c) It has been recommended by the task force constituted for the purpose to provide additional funds to the extent of Rs. 368.30 crores for various components.

Task Force set up for action Plan on Agricultural Production

2529. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Task Force set up by the Prime Minister for Action Plan on Agricultural Production have finalised preliminary reports and if so, whether this would be made public in order to generate open fruitful discussion as has been published

in the Times of India of the 9th February, 1988;

(b) whether target of 175 million MT of food grains by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan is likely to be achieved; and

(c) whether production of protective foods, such as milk, fruits and vegetables will form a special thrust area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) On-going Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored schemes as well as State Plan will augment protective foods, such as Milk, fruits and vegetable producton in the Country.

Advance warning of drought

2530. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the *'Indian Express'* of the 6th February, 1988 wherein it has been stated that the Meteorogical Office had warned Government in June, 1987 it self of the drought of 1987;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Central Government had failed to take measures in time to face the drought inspite of advance warning;

(c) if so, the reaons therefor; and

(d) what measures Government propose to take to avoid such recurrence in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) No news item about advance warning given by Meteorological Department appeared in the 'Indian Express' New Delhi Edition of 6th February, 1988. However, this news appeared in this paper on 16th February, 1988.

Indian Meteorological Department did not warn the Government of India in June 1987 about the drought of 1987.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Schemes for the Welfare of the Weaker Sections

2531. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHA KRISHNA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total plan outlay for the schemes for welfare of the weaker sections of the society in Delhi during the last three years;

(b) the actual utilisation of funds on this account during the same period; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to increase the rate of utilisation of such funds?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON): (a) According to the information furnished by Delhi Administration, the total plan outlay for the welfare of weaker sections of the society in Delhi during the years 1985-86 to 1987-88 was as follows:—

1985-86	:	Rs. 30.39
1986-87	:	Rs. 40.78
1987-88	:	Rs. 47.54

(b) Expenditure is incurred by Department of Administration and autonomous bodies of the Administration through Grant-in-aid. The total expenditure incurred and funds released as under are as follows:—

1985-86	:	Rs. 31.52
1986-87	:	Rs. 40.83
1987-88 (likely)	:	Rs. 47.54

(c) Funds were utilised in full.